

## **Does your water have a musty smell?**

Several factors present this time of year, such as amount of rainfall, low river flow, and warm river temperature, combine to produce a bloom of blue-green algae. This type of algae produces the compounds that give the water the characteristic taste/odor described as earthy and musty (geosmin and 2-methyl isoborneol - MIB). Although there are no health concerns associated with the taste and odor, it can make water less appealing.

Metro Water Services (MWS) proactively and aggressively battles the factors which cause taste and odor. In the spring of each year, a 5 person Taste and Odor panel is formed in order to gather information and improve the detection and elimination of taste and odor. The most reliable method of treatment is the addition of activated carbon to the treatment process, which we began in April of this year.

However, humans can detect MIB at a level of 3 - 6 ppt (parts per TRILLION). High heat and extended periods of dry weather make it much harder to treat, so some customers may be able to detect it intermittently during the hot, dry summer months. If you detect an earthy or musty odor in your water, chilling the water may help eliminate it.